MAP-India, 2005 IT Conference

1719. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently hosted Map-India, 2005, geographical information technology conference;

(b) if so, the details of salient issues discussed and important observations made by the experts at the meet; and

(c) the suggestions, if any, made in the meet to further add to our economic boom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Map-India-2005 geographical information technology conference was organised by the Survey of India, Department of Science and Technology in cooperation with Centre for Spatial Database Management and Solutions (CSDMS), GIS Development and the Indian Society of Geomatics (ISG) during February 7-9, 2005 at New Delhi.

(b) and (c) Details of salient issues discussed and important observations and the suggestions made by the experts at the meet to further add to our economic boom are available on the website of the event (www.mapindia.org).

Provision of telephones in the villages of Chhattisgarh

†1720. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have been provided in all the villages of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if not, the number of villages of the State which are devoid of telephone facilities, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have fixed any time-limit for providing telephone facilities in each village of the State; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of uncovered villages in Chhattisgarh is 5051. This excludes villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas The district-wise list of uncovered villages in the State is as under —

Sl No	Name of the District	No. of uncovered villages where VPTs are to be provided
1	Bastar	522
2	Bilaspur	48
3	Champa	0
4	Dantewada	866
5	Dhamtari	66
6.	Durg	103
7	Jashpurnagar	95
8	Kanker	346
9	Kawardha	63
10	Korba	19
11	Koria	563
12	Mahasamund	168
13	Raigarh	141
14.	Rajnandgaon	432
15.	Rajpur	332
16.	Sarguja	1,314
	TOTAL.	5,051

(c) and (d) The office of Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has awarded the work of providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 5,051 villages of Chhattisgarh to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). These VPTs are planned to be provided in a phased manner by November, 2007.